

Testimony of the Cornell Scott - Hill Health Center
before the
Appropriations Committee
Presented by
Rob Rioux, Chief of Strategic Development

Thursday December 12, 2013

Members of the Committee, thank you and good morning. My name is Rob Rioux. I represent Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center in New Haven.

First of all, let me thank the legislative body and our colleagues across the various State agencies for their work on behalf of the people of this State.

We are honored by the priority the State has placed on healthcare and appreciate the assistance we now receive. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, we are on the front lines of the healthcare experience. I can assure you that the funding modification proposal submitted by the Department of Public Health will have an adverse effect on our ability to impact the health status of our patient population. Every time we face a reduction in funding we must then make hard decisions and those decisions often impact access to care.

The pressures faced by our State agencies to strike the right balance when it comes to budgets and funding options is tremendous. We understand the difficulty. I can only ask that these challenges be managed in a way that does not rob Peter to pay Paul, but rather ensures that the funding provided is utilized in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

At a time when the State has made a commitment to embrace the future of healthcare through adoption of the Affordable Care Act and made expanded Medicaid and the insurance marketplace a reality for the citizens of Connecticut, I ask that you enable DPH to honor their commitments as well.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our State.